The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN DEFENSE BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1616 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 13

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

A great American tragedy was written into the record this week.

Five million American workers, banded together in the American Federation of Labor, had an important story to tell to their fellow citizens. They were being attacked on all sides by reactionaries—by an organized combine branded by the President of the United States as Sixth Columnists. They were being gulped at and smeared while working to save their country. They wanted the public to know the truth. They had to pay to get their story told by the newspapers.

That, we submit, is a tragic situation in American life. The newspapers would not print the truth about labor as news, but they would print it for cash as paid advertising.

And what was this message that the workers of the AFL wished to convey? The introduction to the advertisement summed it up as follows:

"Words won't win this war—hard fighting will. Sniping at each other won't win this war—national unity will. New laws won't win this war—hard work will.

"We are workers of America, its production soldiers. We are on the job. We have only one aim right now and that is to help America win. We are working night and day to produce the ships, planes, tanks and guns our armed forces need for victory.

"We are giving this job everything we've got. We will stick to this job, come Hell or high water, until this war is won. That is our pledge to America!"

A Free Press—For Whom?

And that is what the newspapers required payment for before printing!

The next time anyone tries to tell us about the great, free press of America we will laugh in his face.

Certainly the press is free—but not for labor. Certainly it is free—for any irresponsible demagogue in Congress who wishes to smear labor. That's the stuff that always gets printed at great length.

Certainly the press is free—for a discredited public official like Thurman Arnold who tries to cover up his 100 per cent record of defeat in the courts by new charges against labor. But when his superior, Attorney General Biddle, repudiates what Arnold says—the press is no longer so free with its space. It gives the anti-labor charge front page columns. It hides the official repudiation in an inside page inch.

Now the American Federation of Labor is not a profit-rich corporation. Its income is limited to the pennies it receives each month in per capita tax payments from affiliated labor unions. The AFL cannot afford to carry on million-dollar advertising campaigns—and what's more it won't.

The American Federation of Labor does propose to contribute to the support of publications which devote their news and editorial columns to campaigns to destroy labor.

Program for the Future

Even if it had the vast sums required to carry on a nation-wide advertising campaign, the AFL would rather spend the money in promoting the labor press and making the labor press a more powerful competitor of the kept press.

That is the message we want to convey to the hungry advertising wolves which have been baying at our door ever since the advertisement appeared. In the two days since then, the writer's office has been flooded with more mail and phone calls from newspapers begging for an ad than it normally receives in two months from newspaper representatives in search of news.

The AFL did not spend its money willingly for newspaper advertising. The statement that was published was plain as follows:

"This advertisement is paid for by the five million members of the American Federation of Labor. They are forced to go to this expense to bring the truth to the American people because the managers of the newspapers in America do not print the truth about labor in their news and editorial columns."

For money, the newspapers even swallowed this insult!

From now on the American Federation of Labor will carry on an aggressive campaign to bring the truth about labor home to the American people—but not through paid advertising. This is our program:

1—To supply greater news coverage to the labor press and to support its wider circulation.

2—To go on the air with a radio labor news program, which will be broadcast regularly on a nation-wide hook-up beginning shortly.

3—To circulate pamphlets and printed material far and wide stating the facts succinctly and forcefully.

This is a worth-while educational program in which every member of the AFL can help—and will be asked to help.

Anti-Labor Blitzkreig Repulsed On All Fronts; Green Hits "Undeclared War" Against Roosevelt; Sixth Column In Retreat As Lies Are Nailed

AFL Asks Stimson To Act Against Use of MacArthur's Photo to Smear American Workers

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called upon Secretary of War Stimson to take official action to prevent unauthorized use of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's photograph in newspaper advertisements advocating anti-labor legislation.

In a telegram to Secretary Stimson, Mr. Green cited two specific instances where this was done and asked the Secretary to join him in protesting against it.

Mr. Green charged that it was taking unfair advantage of Gen. MacArthur to use his photograph without permission in the furtherance of policies which his Commander-in-Chief and the War Department have publicly opposed.

He also charged that the advertisements were deliberately anonymous because publication of the names of the sponsors "would prove beyond question that their motives are selfish rather than patriotic."

Mr. Green asked Secretary Stimson to act "in the interests of the free press, in the interests of the truth and in the interests of the principles of justice and fair play which make us proud to be Americans."

The text of Mr. Green's telegram to Secretary Stimson follows:

"I wish to call your attention to a nefarious and unauthorized use of the photograph of America's military hero, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, to further policies which are opposed by our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, and by the War Department.

"I refer specifically to full page advertisements which appeared on March 15 in the Washington (D. C.) Daily News and on March 19 in the Virginia Beacon.

"These advertisements carried Gen. MacArthur's picture prominently displayed. The accompanying text called for abolition of the right to strike, abolition of the 40-hour week, stall-ism of overtime. It urged citizens to call upon their representatives in Congress to vote for such measures.

"The obvious intent of this sort of advertising was to make it appear that Gen. MacArthur supported such action or that it was necessary for America to take such measures in order to help him and our armed forces under him win the war.

"Gen. MacArthur is in Australia. He has a tremendous job on his hands. It is unfair to him to use his photograph without his permission in the furtherance of policies which his Commander-in-Chief has rejected.

"The sponsors of this advertising are anonymous. They sign their advertisement as 'patriotic individuals and firms' but we are not impressed by their modesty in withholding their identity. We believe publication of their names would prove beyond question that their motives are selfish rather than patriotic.

"This abominable advertising campaign is not isolated in Wichita, Kan. It originated in Oklahoma City and it has spread through other surrounding states. In many cases it has been supported by editorial and alleged news stories in the same newspapers which publish the advertising.

"As President of the American Federation of Labor, which is composed of five million loyal American citizens, I call upon you, as Secretary of War, to join me in protesting against the unauthorized use of Gen. MacArthur's photograph in these advertisements.

"I urge you to take such official action as lies within your power to prevent further abuses of the same nature.

"I ask this in the interests of the free press, in the interests of the truth and in the interests of the principles of justice and fair play which make us proud to be Americans."

Biddle Repudiates Arnold

Washington, D. C.—Attorney General Francis Biddle publicly disavowed Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold's latest attack on organized labor.

Mr. Biddle, who heads the Department of Justice, declared flatly at a press conference that Mr. Arnold, who is his subordinate, was not speaking for that department, for the Government or for anyone other than himself when he issued such charges.

Attorney General Biddle was referring directly to Arnold's testimony before a Congressional committee that labor unions have preyed upon consumers, farmers and small business and that existing law is not adequate to regulate unions.

The daily newspapers plastered Arnold's charges all over page 1. They buried the repudiation by his chief, Attorney General Biddle, at the end of stories on another subject where it would be least likely to attract notice.

Anti-Labor Legislation Denounced

Chicago, Ill.—Following are excerpts from the address of the Teamsters' chief over the National Broadcasting System March 29:

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

At this particular time when there should be complete understanding and harmony and not hatred and bitterness, we find a campaign being carried on of the most bitter and vicious nature against the trade union movement.

It has been repeated and magnified a thousand times over by public speakers and others that "we cannot win the war" if we have the 40-hour week. The 40-hour week bogeyman is willful deception because there isn't a working man in our country who hasn't the privilege of working far in excess of 40 hours a week.

All they have to do, when they finish their 40 hours of assigned employment that you pay them a little more for the extra hours. That's the issue. A few dollars more if you require them to work over 40 hours.

Labor has a patriotic pledged itself that during the war they would give up their only weapon, the only economic strength they have, the right to stop work collectively, in all legal employments. Labor could have gone no further. Since that time we find that employers in many instances have taunted our people and defied them to go on strike, stating plainly that we had placed ourselves in a position. I have had instances where the honest wages earned by our people were not being paid and the employer refused to pay them, and defied the men to stop work.

Now, my friends, you must remember that legislation will not prevent strikes; it will goad men on to an abhorrence and detestation of law and seriously to question the sincerity of the lawmakers.

Why legislation now against strikes when there are practically no strikes in defense industries? Laws must be just to be capable of enforcement. You cannot chain free men to the mast or strap them to the machines.

It is my judgment that if there is any legislation enacted by Congress unnecessarily to deprive Labor of any of the benefits it has obtained over the years, it is the surest way to destroy the harmony and the efficiency now rendered the nation by the workers.

Therefore, in the interests of freedom and of our country, I ask Congress and I appeal to be led by the power who point our dangers that do not exist in order to destroy the organizations of the toilers.

AFL And CIO Working Together To Help Win War, Green Reveals

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor and the CIO are now working together in an effort to stimulate industrial production and to cooperate wholeheartedly with the President and the Government in carrying the war to a successful conclusion, AFL President William Green told the House Naval Affairs Committee.

"Our experience thus far has been splendid," Mr. Green said. "We have done many things already and the outlook is very, very good. I am sure we will be able to work together during the duration of the war in the interest of the common welfare."

Mr. Green added that the leaders of both organizations are working on plans to prevent "raiding" by either side. He also said a plan is being worked out so that if one organization is compelled to suspend a local union for an unauthorized strike, the other will not pick it up and give it a charter.

Members of the committee and the press joyfully welcomed Mr. Green's statement as "good news for America."

GREEN, MURRAY, McNUTT TO JOIN IN GIANT RALLY

Pittsburgh, Pa.—AFL President William Green, CIO President Philip Murray and Federal Security Administrator McNutt will participate together in a giant "Victory Rally" at Syria Mosque in this city on Tuesday, April 7.

Arrangements are being made to have the addresses of all three broadcast over a nation-wide hookup.

The mass meeting is being held under the AFL-CIO auspices to focus public attention on the fact that organized labor as a whole is working together to help America win the war.

Look for the announcement of the time and network of this vital radio program and be sure to listen in!

GAINS LISTED BY UNION LABOR LIFE INS. UNIT

New York City.—Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor and president of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, owned by national and international unions comprising the AFL, made public the company's statement of financial conditions as of Dec. 31, 1941.

A comparison with the year before showed the following:

	Dec. 31, 1941.	Dec. 31, 1941.
Total assets	$3,851,256	$4,358,617
Surplus	358,290	430,588
Income for year	1,071,294	1,490,241
Payments to policyholders in year	815,507	856,268
Insurance in force:		
Individual	10,586,420	12,118,972
Group policies	64,402,287	70,976,700
Total	72,985,207	82,095,572
Retirement annuities	317 units	497½ units

The statement declared that on Dec. 31, the company's combined capital, stock, surplus and contingency reserves amounted to $1,542,688, equal to 38.3 per cent of its admitted assets. During 1941 was sufficient to meet all obligations and to permit additional investments in high-grade securities, it was said.

Payments to or for the account of policy holders for death and disability claims, matured endowments, dividends and surrender values amounted to $856,268.

The company was organized in 1927.

COMMUNISTS DEFEATED

New York City.—Charles S. Zimmerman and the entire Progressive Administration of Zimmerman, who was swept into office as manager by 11,564 votes. Every one of the 29 progressive candidates for the executive board was elected, as were 27 progressive candidates for business agents and 5 progressive candidates for relief committee.

Congress Halts Action on Smith and Connally Bills As Labor Leaders Launch Own Offensive

Washington, D. C.—The blitzkrieg against labor flopped on all fronts this week.

The American Federation of Labor, with powerful assistance from the Roosevelt Administration, launched a sweeping counter-attack against the anti-labor Sixth Column with these outstanding results:

1—Congress counted the vicious Smith-Vinson and Connally Bills dead or mortally wounded.

2—The Sixth Column campaign, born in Oklahoma, to force enactment of these measures was stripped of its camouflage by AFL President William Green and exposed as a secretly-financed "undeclared war" against President Roosevelt and American workers.

3—Tory newspapers, which had ballyhooed the anti-labor drive into crusade proportions, started to back down and offer compromises as corporation profit-orgies and patent deals with the enemy were bared to the public gaze.

The first crushing blow to labor's enemies was delivered by AFL President William Green.

Invading the opposition stronghold, Mr. Green appeared before the House Naval Affairs Committee at a public hearing and demolished all arguments in favor of the Smith-Vinson Bill with facts.

He demonstrated convincingly that the abolition of the 40-hour week would not add a single hour of labor to war production, that abolition of overtime would mean only a pay-cut for American workers with a corresponding hike in employer profits and that abolition of the right to strike would endanger a record of industrial peace unmatched in any democratic nation in the world.

Members of the committee were so impressed by Mr. Green's testimony that they hastened to assure him they were against the bill. Chairman Vinson announced the committee would postpone action on the bill for two weeks and probably seek to modify its provisions. This was interpreted on Capitol Hill as the first move toward admitting defeat of the measure.

In the Senate, Senator Connally of Texas tried in vain to obtain immediate action on his "strike-control" bill.

His move was stopped in its tracks by Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley who denounced the "organized effort" to "intimidate, browbeat and insult" Congress and the President and declared flatly that no such legislation is necessary to assure labor's all-out cooperation in the nation's war effort.

Mr. Green and John P. Frey, President of the AFL Metal Trades Department, appeared before the House Naval Affairs Committee after a procession of top-ranking Government heads had offered unanimous testimony in opposition to the bill.

Pointing to this testimony and the public statements by President Roosevelt that legislation like the Smith-Vinson Bill might do serious harm to the nation's war effort, Mr. Green said:

"Why, then, are the sponsors and supporters of this bill still persisting with it? Do they want us to believe that the heads of our Government don't know the facts? Do they want us to believe that President Roosevelt and Mr. Nelson are not being honest with the American people? Do they want Congress and the American people to judge between the wisdom of their policies and President Roosevelt's?

"If so, we are confident of what that judgment will be.

"I charge that the sponsors and supporters of this bill are now waging an undeclared war against President Roosevelt and against the workers of America who believe in the policies of his Administration."

Both Mr. Green and Mr. Frey submitted facts to prove that the 40-hour week no longer exists except as an overtime standard in war industries. Hours of individual labor range from 48 to 60 a week in these industries, while many plants operate much longer hours by employing multiple shifts, they testified.

The only delays in war industries, they emphasized, were due to lack of materials or tools.

Both witnesses warmly defended overtime pay above 40 hours as an incentive to increased production. To abolish overtime would destroy this incentive, they warned.

Mr. Green cited official figures showing that labor's strike record in America since Pearl Harbor is twice as good as Great Britain's since Dunkirk. Members of the House Naval Affairs Committee sat up and took notice of these facts.

After giving an eloquent account of labor's tremendous contributions toward strengthening America's war program, Mr. Green concluded:

"Now men and women of America, I charge you to do the work that must be done for victory. They are setting production records. They are beating schedules every day. They are proving themselves real soldiers of production on the front.

"I ask Congress not to slap America's loyal workers in the face by approving this bill. I ask Congress to give American labor new heart and new courage for the tasks ahead by defeating this dangerous measure."

"We're With You For Victory," Green Cables General MacArthur

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor sent a cable to General Douglas P. MacArthur, Allied Command, Australia, congratulating him in the name of five million AFL members for his "fearlessness and skill" and pledging the united effort of the AFL to "build for our armed forces the finest and best war weapons the world has ever produced."

Mr. Green's message to General MacArthur follows:

"We're behind you, General—five million strong.

"Your fearlessness and skill in the face of overwhelming odds makes every last one of us proud to be an American.

"We solemnly pledge to invest one billion dollars of our earnings to help maintain you and our fighting men everywhere.

"We further pledge that we will build for our armed forces the finest and best war weapons the world has ever produced."

The California State Federation of Labor has ordered thousands of copies of this cablegram printed in poster form and will place them in conspicuous spots in defense plants throughout that state to build up morale and stimulate war production.

Help Our Government!

To All Central Labor Unions:

The United States Employment Service, in cooperation with the Selective Service Board, is now mailing a questionnaire to all men registered for military purposes. This blank asking for work and occupational experience will be used by the Selective Service Board for making decisions with regard to drafted persons and by the U. S. Employment Service to provide information with respect to our male work population which will help in finding needed workers for war industries.

While the questionnaire is not complicated, it would help enormously for accuracy if you, or some committee from your Central Labor Union, is able to explain to your membership how to put down a complete work record.

I suggest that you get copies of the questionnaire from your local draft board so as to be ready to serve your membership. It would additionally expedite collection of data if you would call up officers of local unions and forward this suggestion. As blanks have to be returned in ten days I hope you will expedite cooperation in this necessary war service.

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor.

Overtime—Its Purpose And Effect

By JOHN P. FREY

President, Metal Trades Department, AFL

The purpose of payment for overtime and its influence, has changed with the passing of time. In the 1890's the majority of American wage earners worked ten or more hours per day. The trade union movement of that day was answering to shorten these hours, and to change a condition in many manufacturing establishments where, if for any reason workers were held more than ten hours, they received no payment whatsoever for the additional time. Overtime payment at the end of ten hours it was hoped would put an end to this condition.

When the great effort was made to shorten the hours to nine per day, and afterwards to eight, the payment of overtime materially assisted in establishing these shorter hours.

As trade unionists became more conscious of the injurious effects of unemployment on the wage earners' standard of living, the payment of overtime, a prohibitive overtime if possible, was accepted as a means of spreading employment. This gave payment of overtime a different connotation than when it was originally conceived and established by the American trade union movement.

As labor became better organized and the practice of negotiating agreements with employers became greatly extended, overtime in many instances took on a new aspect. It became a definite part of the weekly pay envelope. Trade union agreements with employers provided for minimum wage rates, basic wage rates. Employers were unwilling to have these basic wage rates increased; they used all of their influence to prevent this, but found a means by which the weekly pay envelope could be increased by establishing production conditions under which a large number of workers received so much overtime each week. For a number of years the payment of overtime has been accepted as a definite part of the wage earners wage income. This was particularly true where the industry was of such a character as to make continuous employment the exception.

With the necessity for an extensive manufacturing program for national defense, and a condition which so rapidly developed after December 7, 1941, the payment of overtime was applied for the purpose of stimulating greater production, while safeguarding the worker from over physical and mental labor which would reduce his long time capacity for production.

On January 13 and 14, 1942, a conference was held in San Francisco, Calif., for the purpose of putting into effect 54-hours a day, 365-days a year production in the great shipbuilding industry on the Pacific Coast. The Navy Department, Maritime Commission and War Production Board were officially represented, and participated in the conference and the agreement which was reached. Practically all of the shipbuilders on the Pacific Coast, the Metal Trades Department, the International Representatives of shipyard workers, and the shipbuilding Metal Trades Councils also took part.

The existing Master Shipbuilding Agreement on the Pacific Coast provided for time and one-half on Saturdays and double time for Sundays. The San Francisco conference agreed that calendar Saturday and Sunday work be abolished for seven days a week production required the staggering of work days for individual workmen, or for work crews or gangs.

In discussing the problem of overtime payment, we found from reliable data that some workmen employed in the shipyards, when they took a day or two off for any reason, invariably took the days when straight time was paid, but regarded the work on the days when overtime was paid under the Master Agreement. So that there would be more continuous work the conference provided that only when a worker had been employed for five consecutive days would he receive time and one-half for the sixth day. In this instance overtime payments were for the purpose of securing continuous employment by the worker during six consecutive days.

The conference also agreed that when the employe worked seven consecutive days he should receive double time for the seventh day. In this instance the purpose of the overtime payment was to prevent the worker from being employed more than six consecutive days, unless there was an urgent emergency.

It was obvious that if a workman worked seven days a week for several weeks, that his physical and mental capacity for production would be injured. He would go stale; he would be less fit to produce.

The purpose of overtime payment in this agreement was a dual one; first, to stimulate steady production on the worker's part; and secondly, to prevent excessive consecutive days of employment. The purpose was to stimulate the most speedy production of ships, and to penalize or retard it.